



Tassajara Road / Camino Tassajara Road Temporary Closure Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is Tassajara Road being improved?

A: Tassajara Road includes a narrow section of roadway which sits over an aging 9-foot diameter culvert in the habitat-sensitive Moller Creek that was built by the County before the City of Dublin was incorporated. This culvert is an aging corrugated metal pipe that is approaching the end of its serviceable life. The site has been deteriorating over time due to weather events, including in March 2010, when heavy rains created a large sinkhole in the road and necessitated an emergency road closure. This project will improve the culvert and road to ensure that is safe for the traveling public now and in the future.

Q: What is included in this project?

A: The new improvement will replace the existing pipe with an 18-foot diameter culvert. This increased size will allow a more stable flow of water, stop the ongoing deterioration underneath the road, and will lessen the possibility of emergency road closures in the future. Additional widening of the roadway will also provide greater safety for motorists traveling along that section of Tassajara Road linking Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. The new 18-foot diameter culvert will be over 400 feet long and replaces the existing 9-foot diameter culvert that is approximately 150 feet long.

Q: What will the construction mean for the traveling public?

A: The culvert construction project requires an extended closure of Tassajara Road at Fallon Road in Dublin, and the closure of Camino Tassajara at Windemere Parkway in San Ramon. Drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians are unable to use Tassajara Road/Camino Tassajara to travel between Dublin and Contra Costa County. Through traffic is not permitted, and only local residents are allowed access south of Windemere Parkway. The traveling public must use alternate routes coordinated between the City of Dublin, Contra Costa County, San Ramon, and Danville officials.

Q: When will construction begin and end?

A: The road closure began May 2, 2016. It is anticipated that the culvert and replacement roadway construction will be complete and the road will be reopened in December 2016. The construction period is limited because the creek is an environmentally sensitive habitat. Construction can only take place in dry periods to minimize any potential impacts to the environment or wildlife.

Q: Why couldn't a by-pass road, or a phased project without road closures, be built? Was a road closure the only alternative?

A: All construction alternatives were explored before determining that this approach was the least impactful of the alternatives. The constraints of the site, the habitat, and environmental sensitivity of the area made full road closure the preferred alternative.

Q: Why will construction take so long? Couldn't this be completed more quickly?

A: We realize this is an important roadway and that the closure creates a significant inconvenience for travelers. In order to complete the work as quickly as possible, crews are working ten-hour shifts Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and also working Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Due to the sensitive habitat environment, resource agencies have limited construction within the creek corridor to a half-hour after sunrise to a half-hour before sunset.

While this stretch of road appears to be very short, this construction project is very complicated and the work area is highly constrained. Since start of construction, the work has included site preparation, excavation for the new culvert, and installation of a pipe-bridge for a temporary bypass of the existing water main that serves the Dougherty Valley area and the Windemere community in San Ramon. The original 20-inch main is located in Tassajara Road above the failing culvert that is being replaced. The pipe-bridge has been installed and the temporary water line bypass will be installed and tested before the end of July.

To date, the contractor has moved approximately 45,000 cubic yards of soil in preparation for the new culvert. The contractor will soon begin the remaining roadway excavation for the new culvert. The remaining excavation is estimated to be complete by the end of July, and it will be at least 60-feet deep in order to reach sound bedrock.

The new culvert, an 18-foot diameter corrugated steel pipe, is partially assembled at the surface and will be lifted by crane and lowered into the excavation. Pipe segments will be bolted together to create the 400-foot long culvert, which is one third longer than a football or soccer field. Once the culvert is placed, concrete and block retaining walls will be installed at each end of the pipe culvert and the excavation will be backfilled to cover the pipe. The assembly and installation of the culvert, construction of the walls, and backfilling of the excavation is estimated to take approximately three months.

After the culvert is installed, the balance of the construction will include water, recycled water, sewer, storm drain, electrical, and communication utilities installation before the roadway is paved. The new four-lane roadway surface will be wider than the two-lane road that exists today. The new road will be fully improved, with concrete curbs, gutter, sidewalk, and street lights.

Q: What about impacts to residents? How is emergency response coordinated?

A: We understand that this road closure is inconvenient for residents who use this segment of roadway. However, road safety is paramount and this improvement will ensure that this segment of roadway is safe for future travel. Emergency responders from all of the affected jurisdictions have coordinated a response plan for this time period.

Q: How can I learn more and stay informed?

A: The City's webpage, www.dublin.ca.gov/roadwork, is updated regularly. Residents may also sign up to receive email or text message updates from the City of Dublin's Public Works Department. Visitors to the website may click on the "Keep Informed" button on the front page, and then scroll to the "News Flash" section. From there, it is easy to sign up for updates from the Public Works Department.